

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
September 14 - 22, 2011

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1. [Clinton Launches New Counterterrorism Partnership](#) (09-22-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — With the goal of preventing the creation of more victims of terrorism, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton joined foreign ministers from 30 countries in launching the Global Counterterrorism Forum, designed to provide a venue for countries to collaborate on strengthening the capacities of governments, civil society groups and others to prevent and address terrorist threats.

Clinton was joined by Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York September 22. She said that with advances in technology, communications and travel, terrorism's targeting of innocent civilians has become a threat to everyone around the world.

"No country can afford to sit on the sidelines in the face of this threat, and no country can afford to go it alone," [Clinton said](#).

The countries launching the forum are in agreement that the international community needs "a dedicated global venue to regularly convene key counterterrorism policymakers and practitioners from around the world — a place to identify essential priorities, devise solutions and chart a path to implementation," she said.

Each country has its own expertise to contribute to the forum, the secretary said. Although circumstances vary from place to place, there is much that countries can learn from each other.

“Our work here has the potential to have a double impact: improving the coordination of counterterrorism efforts across borders and between regions, and also helping countries address terrorist threats within their own borders,” she said.

The forum can help frontline states that face the most acute terror threats to develop justice systems that are rooted in the rule of law and respect universal human rights while remaining effective against violent extremism, she said.

It can also deepen the understanding of how individuals become radicalized and are recruited into terror organizations, allowing countries to disrupt those efforts and deny support for violent activities. Clinton said it can help improve coordination and build “new working-level partnerships between our law enforcement, intelligence, customs and judiciary officials who deal with these problems on the ground every day.”

The launch of the forum “is just the beginning,” she said. Its success “depends on the willingness of all of us, the members, to step up and engage.”

“We don’t need another debating society. We need a catalyst for action,” Clinton said.

FORUM’S “REAL ACTION” IN WORKING GROUPS

A senior State Department official who asked not to be identified told reporters September 21 that the forum brings together wealthy donor nations, Muslim-majority nations, emerging powers such as China and India, and representatives from South America and Africa. He said “the real action” of the forum will take place in its working groups.

Five working groups have been created, the [official said](#). Two are functional — one concerning the criminal justice sector and the rule of law, and the other on countering violent extremism. Three regional groups are dedicated to building counterterrorism capacity in the African regions of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa and in Southeast Asia.

The official said these are regions where there are already existing networks of collaboration against terrorism and efforts under way to strengthen the rule of law and combat extremist ideology.

“It’s places like that where I think you can put points on the board early, and we want to get some real momentum behind this organization,” the official said.

The official added that countries in North Africa and the Middle East that are transitioning from restrictive emergency laws toward greater freedom are the ones who will be “particular beneficiaries” of the forum’s work, because the repressive tactics of former regimes “were, in fact, drivers of radicalization and contributed to the problems we face today.”

The official said the Obama administration is expected to announce that it is giving between \$75 million and \$100 million to countries that are working to strengthen the rule of law.

The funds will help ensure that “their police are properly trained to deal with counterterrorism ... their prosecutors know how to bring cases against terrorists ... their judges can handle terrorism cases ... their legislators can write the necessary legislation so that they have what they need to deal

with this in their judicial system.” The money will also fund rehabilitation programs and improve prisons so former inmates will be separated from extremist organizations.

In addition, the official said, the forum intends to establish a Global Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism that will provide countries with “the training they need to do their own programs at home and configure their own policies, so that as they fight terrorism they’re not creating more extremists along the way.”

The Abu Dhabi-based center will train community leaders and nongovernmental organizations as well as government officials. The official said it is expected to open its doors in 2012.

[Secretary Clinton at Launch of Global Counterterrorism Forum](#) (09-22-2011)

[Secretary Clinton at High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety](#) (09-22-2011)

[State Dept. Briefing on Global Counterterrorism Forum](#) (09-21-2011)

[State Department Briefing on High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety](#) (09-21-2011)

2. U.S. Defense Secretary Says Taliban Insurgents Being Turned Back (09-22-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — As the United States ends military operations in Iraq this year, more attention and resources are being focused on the mission in Afghanistan, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told a Senate committee September 22.

“The core goal of President Obama’s strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan is to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida, to deny it safe haven in the region and to prevent it from again attacking the United States and our allies,” Panetta said in prepared testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In late 2001, U.S. military forces quickly toppled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and drove al-Qaida’s leadership out of the country. But in the years following, the U.S. military shifted focus and resources to Iraq and the Taliban insurgency regrouped and threatened to bring down Afghanistan’s legitimate government, Panetta said.

Under President Obama’s strategy, Panetta said, the effort in Afghanistan has the resources and forces that have helped to put Afghans “on a path to assume lead responsibility for security nationwide by the end of 2014.”

“The insurgency has been turned back in much of the country, including its heartland in the south, and Afghan National Security Forces are increasingly strong and capable,” Panetta testified.

“This undeniable progress allowed us to begin transitioning to Afghan security control in seven areas of the country in July,” Panetta added. Nearly 25 percent of the Afghan population lives in areas where Afghan forces now have the lead responsibility for security.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, also testifying at the Senate hearing, said that, from a military perspective, the security situation in Afghanistan is steadily improving. He said Afghan forces and the International Security Assistance Force troops have

wrested the initiative and momentum from the Taliban in several key areas of the country and have forced them out of critical population centers, particularly in the south and southwest.

“Our combined forces are placing sustained pressure on insurgent groups,” Mullen said. “As a result, the number of insurgent-initiated attacks has for several months been lower than it was at the same time last year.”

The United States has begun a drawdown of the surge forces it sent to Afghanistan more than a year ago with July’s return of two U.S. Army National Guard battalions, Panetta said. Through the remainder of this year, a total of 10,000 troops will redeploy, and another 23,000 troops will return to the United States by the end of summer 2012, the secretary said.

Panetta told senators that the reduction of 33,000 U.S. personnel takes place as more than 50,000 new personnel are being added to the Afghan National Security Forces. “That means by the time we have finished drawing down our surge forces, the insurgents will face more forces than they did during this summer’s fighting season — and substantially more of those forces will be Afghan,” Panetta said.

While the growth in the credibility and capabilities of the Afghan forces is allowing for the transition to continue, another component is the long-term U.S. commitment to Afghanistan’s security and stability, Panetta testified. The United States is working with the Afghan government to develop a strategic partnership declaration, which is a framework of mutual commitments that “will help focus the sovereign efforts Afghanistan will take in the years ahead to develop its government, expand its economy and improve its security,” he said.

Panetta said that because of Iraq’s strategic importance in the Middle East, it is in the American national interest that Iraq emerges as a U.S. strategic partner. “Our broader goal moving forward is to build an enduring partnership with the sovereign Iraqi government,” he added.

Panetta told senators that there are fewer than 50,000 U.S. military forces remaining in Iraq, and based on a November 2008 security agreement between the United States and Iraq, the remaining forces will leave by the end of this year. It remains to be determined if a future training agreement will be developed, depending on what action the Iraqi leadership takes, he said.

“Iraq no longer needs large numbers of U.S. forces to maintain internal stability,” he testified.

3. Obama Urges Leaders to Seek Lasting Peace in Imperfect World (09-21-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — Saying that pursuing peace in an imperfect world is their greatest responsibility, President Obama called on world leaders at the United Nations to recommit to seeking a lasting peace — for nations and for individuals — that is built on a sense of justice and opportunity, of dignity and freedom.

“It depends on struggle and sacrifice, on compromise, and on a sense of common humanity,” [Obama said September 21](#) in an address to the opening of the 66th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. World leaders began convening in New York on September 19 for the annual opening of

the General Assembly, which serves to set a work agenda for the year and to highlight issues and challenges for the 193-member organization to tackle in the coming months.

South Sudan became the newest nation to be seated at the United Nations on July 14.

The array of issues that diplomats will address in protracted debate over the course of the year ranges from border disputes to battling the causes of noncommunicable diseases, to food security and nutrition, to poverty, to controlling the proliferation of nuclear weapons. As Obama highlighted in his 35-minute address, the most difficult challenge is forging lasting peace amid a world confronted by protracted conflicts.

“True peace depends on creating the opportunity that makes life worth living,” he said. “And to do that, we must confront the common enemies of humanity: nuclear weapons and poverty, ignorance and disease.”

“These forces corrode the possibility of lasting peace, and together we’re called upon to confront them,” Obama said.

YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

Obama told world leaders that the past year has been one of significant transformation as nations have cast off decades-old authoritarian regimes in pursuit of freedom and universal human rights. The United Nations was built in October 1945 as an organization not just to end one war, but to avert all other wars and to prevent conflict while seeking to address its causes, the president said.

“The fact is peace is hard. But our people demand it,” Obama told leaders in the cavernous General Assembly hall. “Over nearly seven decades, even as the United Nations helped avert a third world war, we still live in a world scarred by conflict and plagued by poverty. Even as we proclaim our love for peace and our hatred of war, there are still convulsions in our world that endanger us all.”

Obama praised the transformations that have occurred in Côte D’Ivoire, Tunisia, South Sudan, Egypt and Libya, while also praising reforms in Bahrain. “America is a close friend of Bahrain, and we will continue to call on the government and the main opposition bloc, the Wifaq, to pursue a meaningful dialogue that brings peaceful change that is responsive to the people,” he said.

At the same time, Obama said, it has been a difficult decade for the United States — thrust into conflict in Afghanistan by terrorism and then into Iraq — but “the tide of war is receding.” When he became president in 2009, Obama said, there were approximately 180,000 U.S. military personnel serving in those countries, but by the end of this year that number will be cut in half and it will continue to decline. U.S. forces are being fully withdrawn from Iraq by the end of the year, and a gradual removal of forces from Afghanistan is beginning as the Afghan government and national security forces assume effective control of their own security, he said.

“So, yes, this has been a difficult decade. But today, we stand at a crossroads of history with the chance to move decisively in the direction of peace,” Obama told world leaders.

Obama warned, though, that progress toward a world free and whole can be reversed. The United Nations and its members must do their part to support the basic aspirations of people so that they can live in sustained freedom, dignity and security.

The president noted that Iran continues to refuse to recognize the rights of its own people, and that men and women and children are being tortured, detained and murdered by the Syrian regime. The United States, he added, has already imposed sanctions on Syria's leaders and it supports a transfer of power that is responsive to the Syrian people.

America supports the aspirations of the people of Yemen for a nation free of corruption and violence, Obama said.

MIDEAST PEACE

Obama told world leaders that there is no shortcut to resolve the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians that has endured for decades. "Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the United Nations," he added.

"Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians who must live side by side. Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians — not us — who must reach agreement on the issues that divide them: on borders and on security, on refugees and Jerusalem," Obama said.

Obama said the United States wants the Palestinian people to have full statehood, but to achieve that goal will require negotiations between the two peoples. The integrity, security and sovereignty of the Israelis and Palestinians must be respected and must be recognized by both sides.

"Each side has legitimate aspirations, and that's part of what makes peace so hard," Obama said. "And the deadlock will only be broken when each side learns to stand in the other's shoes, each side can see the world through the other's eyes."

[President Obama's Address to United Nations General Assembly](#) (09-21-2011)

4. Excerpt: Secretary Panetta, Admiral Mullen on Afghanistan (09-20-2011)

DOD News Briefing with Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mullen from the Pentagon

... QUESTION: I wanted to ask both of you about the assassination of Dr. Rabbani today -- in Afghanistan. Mr. Chairman earlier today you talked about the violence. You said we have to adjust to that and protect the leaders. So my first question is, what are you talking about, what kind of protection for Afghan leadership?

What about the Haqqani Network and their being behind some of these? And after four high-profile attacks in Kabul in recent weeks, is it time to finally say this is more than just them -- the Taliban -- seeking headlines and seeking propaganda? Is it time to take this more seriously?

ADM. MULLEN: Well, I think we do take it very seriously, first of all. Secondly, I don't have the details of this, other than what's been -- what's been reported, so I couldn't tell you who's behind it.

I think there are -- you -- there are those that would immediately finger Haqqani specifically. I just don't -- I can't validate that one way or another.

For weeks now, since President Karzai's brother was killed, and there were assassinations or there were killings back then as well, one of the things that General Allen has done is looked with the

Afghan security forces at ways to shore up their security and to -- and the personal security. And so we continue to do that -- to look at their practices, to look at their qualifications, those kinds of things. And that will continue.

But this also, from my perspective, reflects the shift in -- with respect to the Taliban's overall strategy because they've not succeeded on the ground this year. Their campaign has failed in that regard. They've shifted to these high-profile attacks. Strategically they're significant. General Allen as recently as today described the attack on the embassy as an operational failure. That said, it certainly has had strategic impact. So we take it very seriously as a part of the campaign. We know that this is what the Taliban are doing, and we've got to adjust, and we're doing it.

And I'm -- and I'm -- you know, we're aware that this is -- this will continue. But I don't think -- I mean, that they seek to continue this -- but I don't think today's the time or this is the moment to make any significant change. We do take it very seriously.

Q: Mr. Secretary, what changes are you looking at in Afghanistan in terms of trying to deal with this evolving threat Admiral Mullen described -

SEC. PANETTA: Well, as the Admiral said, we are extremely concerned about, obviously, these kinds of attacks.

We're concerned about all of the attacks that take place because of the lives that are lost and because of the -- you know, the effort to disrupt the progress that has been made in Afghanistan.

But it's not unexpected. I had a discussion with General Allen this morning basically asking him for -- you know, give me your assessment as to what's happening with the Taliban and obviously having gone through the attacks in Kabul and the car bombing that took place before that -- give me your assessment. And his assessment was that, you know, we have made progress against the Taliban, that we had anticipated early on that there would be broader attacks that would be made by the Taliban during this period, this fighting period, and those have not occurred.

We have made progress in weakening them. We have made progress in going after their leadership. But having said that, they now are resorting to these kinds of attacks, to these kinds of high-level assassinations, which, you know, as I said, are of concern. And we've got to take steps to try to make sure that we protect against that.

And we're in the process of doing that. We're working with the Afghans to try to discuss with them steps on how we can take -- provide better protection so that this does not occur. But the bottom line still remains that we are moving in the right direction. We have made progress against the Taliban. And we can't let some of these sporadic events deter us from the progress that we've made.

Q: How big a loss is Rabbani to the peace and reconciliation process?

SEC. PANETTA: I regret his loss. I think he was playing an important role with regards to efforts at reconciliation, reintegration. And I'm hopeful that we'll be able to work with others to try to continue the efforts that he was engaged in.

Q: After the series of attacks in Kabul, is there any greater U.S. willingness to take unilateral action against the Haqqanis across the border in Pakistan? And if not, what can you do about it?

SEC. PANETTA: Well, I made the point, and I think Mike Mullen has made the same point, that, look, we are going to take whatever steps are necessary to protect our forces. With -- and I'm not going to talk about, you know, particular strategies to, in fact, implement that commitment.

But our biggest concern right now is to put as much pressure as possible on the Pakistanis to exercise control from their side of the border. We've continued to state that this cannot happen. We cannot have the Haqqanis coming across the border, attacking our forces, attacking Afghanistan -- Afghanis and then disappearing back into a safe haven. That is not tolerable.

And we have urged them to take steps. Mike Mullen met with General Kayani recently to urge that same point. And we'll continue to do that. I think they're -- I think they've heard the message, but we'll see.

5. President Obama's Remarks at U.N. Meeting on Libya (09-20-2011)

Remarks by President Obama at high-level meeting on Libya, United Nations, New York, New York

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Good morning. Mr. Secretary General, on behalf of us all, thank you for convening this meeting to address a task that must be the work of all of us -- supporting the people of Libya as they build a future that is free and democratic and prosperous. And I want to thank President Jalil for his remarks and for all that he and Prime Minister Jibril have done to help Libya reach this moment.

To all the heads of state, to all the countries represented here who have done so much over the past several months to ensure this day could come, I want to say thank you, as well.

Today, the Libyan people are writing a new chapter in the life of their nation. After four decades of darkness, they can walk the streets, free from a tyrant. They are making their voices heard -- in new newspapers, and on radio and television, in public squares and on personal blogs. They're launching political parties and civil groups to shape their own destiny and secure their universal rights. And here at the United Nations, the new flag of a free Libya now flies among the community of nations.

Make no mistake -- credit for the liberation of Libya belongs to the people of Libya. It was Libyan men and women -- and children -- who took to the streets in peaceful protest, who faced down the tanks and endured the snipers' bullets. It was Libyan fighters, often outgunned and outnumbered, who fought pitched battles, town-by-town, block-by-block. It was Libyan activists -- in the underground, in chat rooms, in mosques -- who kept a revolution alive, even after some of the world had given up hope.

It was Libyan women and girls who hung flags and smuggled weapons to the front. It was Libyans from countries around the world, including my own, who rushed home to help, even though they, too, risked brutality and death. It was Libyan blood that was spilled and Libya's sons and daughters who gave their lives. And on that August day -- after all that sacrifice, after 42 long years -- it was Libyans who pushed their dictator from power.

At the same time, Libya is a lesson in what the international community can achieve when we stand together as one. I said at the beginning of this process, we cannot and should not intervene every time there is an injustice in the world. Yet it's also true that there are times where the world could

have and should have summoned the will to prevent the killing of innocents on a horrific scale. And we are forever haunted by the atrocities that we did not prevent, and the lives that we did not save. But this time was different. This time, we, through the United Nations, found the courage and the collective will to act.

When the old regime unleashed a campaign of terror, threatening to roll back the democratic tide sweeping the region, we acted as united nations, and we acted swiftly -- broadening sanctions, imposing an arms embargo. The United States led the effort to pass a historic resolution at the Security Council authorizing "all necessary measures" to protect the Libyan people. And when the civilians of Benghazi were threatened with a massacre, we exercised that authority. Our international coalition stopped the regime in its tracks, and saved countless lives, and gave the Libyan people the time and the space to prevail.

Important, too, is how this effort succeeded -- thanks to the leadership and contributions of many countries. The United States was proud to play a decisive role, especially in the early days, and then in a supporting capacity. But let's remember that it was the Arab League that appealed for action. It was the world's most effective alliance, NATO, that's led a military coalition of nearly 20 nations. It's our European allies -- especially the United Kingdom and France and Denmark and Norway -- that conducted the vast majority of air strikes protecting rebels on the ground. It was Arab states who joined the coalition, as equal partners. And it's been the United Nations and neighboring countries -- including Tunisia and Egypt -- that have cared for the Libyans in the urgent humanitarian effort that continues today.

This is how the international community should work in the 21st century -- more nations bearing the responsibility and the costs of meeting global challenges. In fact, this is the very purpose of this United Nations. So every nation represented here today can take pride in the innocent lives we saved and in helping Libyans reclaim their country. It was the right thing to do.

Now, even as we speak, remnants of the old regime continue to fight. Difficult days are still ahead. But one thing is clear -- the future of Libya is now in the hands of the Libyan people. For just as it was Libyans who tore down the old order, it will be Libyans who build their new nation. And we've come here today to say to the people of Libya -- just as the world stood by you in your struggle to be free, we will now stand with you in your struggle to realize the peace and prosperity that freedom can bring.

In this effort, you will have a friend and partner in the United States of America. Today, I can announce that our ambassador is on his way back to Tripoli. And this week, the American flag that was lowered before our embassy was attacked will be raised again, over a re-opened American embassy. We will work closely with the new U.N. Support Mission in Libya and with the nations here today to assist the Libyan people in the hard work ahead.

First, and most immediately: security. So long as the Libyan people are being threatened, the NATO-led mission to protect them will continue. And those still holding out must understand -- the old regime is over, and it is time to lay down your arms and join the new Libya. As this happens, the world must also support efforts to secure dangerous weapons -- conventional and otherwise -- and bring fighters under central, civilian control. For without security, democracy and trade and investment cannot flourish.

Second: the humanitarian effort. The Transitional National Council has been working quickly to restore water and electricity and food supplies to Tripoli. But for many Libyans, each day is still a struggle -- to recover from their wounds, reunite with their families, and return to their homes. And

even after the guns of war fall silent, the ravages of war will continue. So our efforts to assist its victims must continue. In this, the United States -- the United Nations will play a key role. And along with our partners, the United States will do our part to help the hungry and the wounded.

Third: a democratic transition that is peaceful, inclusive and just. President Jalil has just reaffirmed the Transitional National Council's commitment to these principles, and the United Nations will play a central role in coordinating international support for this effort. We all know what is needed -- a transition that is timely, new laws and a constitution that uphold the rule of law, political parties and a strong civil society, and, for the first time in Libyan history, free and fair elections.

True democracy, however, must flow from its citizens. So as Libyans rightly seek justice for past crimes, let it be done in a spirit of reconciliation, and not reprisals and violence. As Libyans draw strength from their faith -- a religion rooted in peace and tolerance -- let there be a rejection of violent extremism, which offers nothing but death and destruction. As Libyans rebuild, let those efforts tap the experience of all those with the skills to contribute, including the many Africans in Libya. And as Libyans forge a society that is truly just, let it enshrine the rights and role of women at all levels of society. For we know that the nations that uphold the human rights of all people, especially their women, are ultimately more successful and more prosperous.

Which brings me to the final area where the world must stand with Libya, and that is restoring prosperity. For too long, Libya's vast riches were stolen and squandered. Now that wealth must serve its rightful owners -- the Libyan people. As sanctions are lifted, as the United States and the international community unfreeze more Libyan assets, and as the country's oil production is restored, the Libyan people deserve a government that is transparent and accountable. And bound by the Libyan students and entrepreneurs who have forged friendships in the United States, we intend to build new partnerships to help unleash Libya's extraordinary potential.

Now, none of this will be easy. After decades of iron rule by one man, it will take time to build the institutions needed for a democratic Libya. I'm sure there will be days of frustration; there will be days when progress is slow; there will be days when some begin to wish for the old order and its illusion of stability. And some in the world may ask, can Libya succeed? But if we have learned anything these many months, it is this: Don't underestimate the aspirations and the will of the Libyan people.

So I want to conclude by speaking directly to the people of Libya. Your task may be new, the journey ahead may be fraught with difficulty, but everything you need to build your future already beats in the heart of your nation. It's the same courage you summoned on that first February day; the same resilience that brought you back out the next day and the next, even as you lost family and friends; and the same unshakeable determination with which you liberated Benghazi, broke the siege of Misurata, and have fought through the coastal plain and the western mountains.

It's the same unwavering conviction that said, there's no turning back; our sons and daughters deserve to be free.

In the days after Tripoli fell, people rejoiced in the streets and pondered the role ahead, and one of those Libyans said, "We have this chance now to do something good for our country, a chance we have dreamed of for so long." So, to the Libyan people, this is your chance. And today the world is saying, with one unmistakable voice, we will stand with you as you seize this moment of promise, as you reach for the freedom, the dignity, and the opportunity that you deserve.

So, congratulations. And thank you very much. (Applause.)

[Fact Sheet: U.N. High-Level Meeting on Libya \(09-20-2011\)](#)

[Fact Sheet on U.N. Resolution to Promote Libya's Recovery \(09-17-2011\)](#)

[6. Nuclear Energy Challenges Global Safety and Security, Chu Says \(09-20-2011\)](#)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu addresses the general conference of the IAEA at the International Center in Vienna September 19.

Washington — U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu told an international forum that nuclear energy, which holds enormous potential for global development, brings significant challenges to the world's collective safety and security.

Chu said the goal is for a future in which peaceful nuclear energy is not only safe, but also accessible by all nations that abide by their obligations. "We must safeguard against any possible diversion or misuse of nuclear energy, whether by nations or terrorists, and ensure nations that violate their obligations face consequences," he said, reading from a message sent by President Obama.

"For those that play by the rules, we are committed to building new frameworks for cooperation that accelerate nuclear energy assistance and lower the risks of proliferation," Obama's statement said.

Chu spoke September 19 to the 151-nation meeting of the 55th annual General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

The approval of an IAEA nuclear fuel bank, to which the United States has committed \$50 million for its development, and also the launch of the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, to which the United States has committed another \$50 million, will strengthen the foundation of the international nuclear nonproliferation regime, Chu told delegates. Expanding nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation has been a central goal of U.S. foreign policy during the Obama administration.

Chu said South Korea will host the next Nuclear Security Summit. The first summit was convened by Obama in 2010 in Washington and was aimed at securing the world's vulnerable nuclear materials. He said that sharpening the world's focus on nuclear security is crucial to preventing nuclear terrorism.

IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano told the conference that "nuclear security remains an extremely important issue for all states. Last week [September 11], we marked the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States. In the wake of those attacks, the agency significantly expanded its nuclear security program to help states protect nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities against malicious acts."

Amano also told delegations that there will be continuous and significant growth in the use of nuclear power in the next two decades, although at a slower rate than in previous IAEA projections.

“We expect the number of operating nuclear reactors in the world to increase by about 90 by 2030, in our low projection, or by around 350, in our high projection, from the current total of 432 reactors,” Amano said. “Most of the growth will occur in countries that already have operating nuclear power plants, such as China and India.”

Chu said the critical challenge facing the world is how to harness nuclear power for peaceful and productive uses while also guarding against the world’s most destructive weapons.

“No nation can tackle this challenge alone. We must face it together — and the IAEA is central to this effort,” Chu told the conference.

In the aftermath of the January earthquake and tsunami in Japan and their impact on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Chu said, the IAEA and its member-states pledged in June to re-examine nuclear safety standards, emergency preparedness plans and incident response capabilities. The United States supports those efforts and believes the IAEA plays the crucial central role.

The IAEA developed an action plan at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June to address lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi incident. But Chu also said that nations must maintain the central role as national regulators and plant operators in achieving safety objectives.

The events stemming from the Fukushima Daiichi incident illustrate the need for a global nuclear liability regime to ensure that accident victims are compensated and to support a stable legal environment for nuclear energy’s expansion, Chu said. That includes the adoption of the international Convention on Supplementary Compensation.

Nations also should work toward ratifying and implementing the relevant international conventions on safety and emergency response, such as the conventions on Nuclear Safety and on Assistance and Early Notification, Chu said.

Chu also said the United States supports the following:

- Discussion through the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation on issues that include infrastructure development, financing and nuclear fuel services.
- Expanded and reliable access to fuel supplies, working through the commercial marketplace and public-private partnerships, for peaceful nuclear programs.
- Strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime.
- A shared commitment to meeting Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations, which the United States has taken toward fulfilling its nuclear disarmament obligations.
- Progress toward a shared commitment to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty into force by strengthening its verification regime.

Chu told the conference that the international community must continue to work together to prevent nuclear terrorism, which is one of the most immediate and extreme threats to global security.

[U.S. Energy Secretary Chu on Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Weapons](#)

7. U.S.-Poland Missile Plan Enters into Force (09-15-2011)

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Washington — The United States and Poland announced September 15 that an agreement to place land-based SM-3 interceptors at a small air base near the northern town of Redzikowo, Poland, part of a broader limited missile defense system for Europe, has entered into force.

“The U.S. ballistic missile defense system will be located at Redzikowo Base as part of the European Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defense in the 2018 timeframe,” a State Department announcement said. “This base represents a significant contribution by our two nations to a future NATO missile defense capability.”

The original agreement was signed by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski on July 3, 2010, in Krakow.

The announcement comes two days after the [United States and Romania agreed](#) to place a similar limited missile interceptor system at an air base near Caracal. And the Turkish foreign ministry also announced September 14 that an early warning radar system will be stationed at a military installation in Kürecik as part of NATO’s missile defense system.

The SM-3 missile interceptors are not offensive weapons, but are kinetic interceptors that collide with potential incoming ballistic missiles. They carry no actual warhead.

The White House said in a statement September 15 that President Obama is committed to protecting the United States, its deployed military forces, European allies and partners against the growing threat of ballistic missiles. In September 2009, on the recommendation of the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Obama announced the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA) for limited missile defense to provide a missile shield sooner and more comprehensively than previous programs, the White House said.

“To put it simply, our new missile defense architecture in Europe will provide stronger, smarter, and swifter defenses of American forces and America’s allies,” [Obama said in the announcement](#) on September 17, 2009.

“It is more comprehensive than the previous program; it deploys capabilities that are proven and cost-effective; and it sustains and builds upon our commitment to protect the U.S. homeland against long-range ballistic missile threats; and it ensures and enhances the protection of all our NATO allies,” Obama added.

At the Lisbon NATO Summit in 2010, NATO leaders endorsed a missile defense capability whose aim was to provide full coverage and protection for all NATO European populations, territory and forces against the increasing threats posed by the widespread development of ballistic missiles, the White House said. And, at the same time, NATO agreed to expand its current missile defense command, control and communications capabilities to provide the same level of protection.

The EPAA system devised by the United States is to be built in four phases. The first phase addresses short-range and medium-range missile threats by deploying U.S. Navy ships that are

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equipped with shipboard SM-3 interceptors. The first of these deployments began in March, according to the White House.

Also included in the first phase is a land-based radar installation in Turkey. By 2015, land-based SM-3 interceptors will begin being deployed in Romania and then in Poland by 2018, according to the White House.
